

MINE LEADERS FOOL WORKERS, HE SAYS

A Former Union Chieftain Charges Them With Hopeless Muddling.

DOUBTS NEED OF STRIKE

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 7.—An anthracite strike is more than probable, with United Mine Workers officials unable to prevent it, according to Thomas L. Lewis, former international president. In an interview here Mr. Lewis attacks the organization and its methods. He was ousted from leadership by John P. White, now president.

Not only are the organizations and leaders attacked, but it is intimated that the latter have promised the miners something which they cannot obtain—increased wages, shorter hours and recognition of the State government.

Even since the retirement of Mr. Lewis from the presidency, it has been charged in certain circles of the organization that he had entered the employ of the operators. That statement is being repeated now to counteract the possible effect of his discharge.

The United Mine Workers' organization, from the standpoint of active union members, financially, intellectually and in the ranks, has not been in so demoralized a condition within the past fifteen years," said Mr. Lewis. "To collect and redistribute millions of dollars in industrial conflicts adds to the cost of production of the union. The membership pays the expense and have to earn it by hard work. It will not always continue."

"A \$50,000 deficit in the publication of the official organ was created with little complaint, convincing evidence of splendid management, but the mine workers pay the bills."

"It is quite easy to formulate demands for an advance in wages, a reduction in the hours of labor and improved conditions of employment to be embodied in the contract. The demands are no trouble having such demands endorsed by any body of wage earners. In fact the man who has the courage to even suggest that the demands might be too radical and might not be defended is immediately charged with being the secret employ of the operators, or some one else, and the private name. He is branded as a traitor to the best interests of the laboring man."

"It is quite a different proposition to present the demands to the employer and submit facts in support of the claims. The demands could be considered. It must be remembered that the sides to every contract in and of itself are always the unwillingness, but the inability of the employer to concede the demands of the employees and remain in business. Any person can demand a thing, but it takes a kind of intelligence with thorough knowledge of the difference between the cost and selling price of a commodity to prove that any demand which adds to the cost of the product can be conceded."

"In the coal mining industry the cost of producing a ton of coal and the price which it will bring are the determining factors in negotiating a wage contract. Sentiment, which may have had something to do with formulating a set of demands, has no place in reaching final conclusions embodied in a wage contract. Competition of one coal producing district with another is an element which the coal miners try to keep out of the consideration by both operators and miners when they are discussing the terms of a proposed wage contract."

WANT COURT HOUSE HALTED TO SAVE TAX

Bennett, for Realty Board, Asks Legislature for Economy Measure.

NEW YORK CITY'S BURDEN

ALBANY, Feb. 7.—The Legislature was petitioned to-night by the Real Estate Board of New York City to enact legislation which would prevent the continuance of work on the new Court House until the city is in better financial condition to forestall the imposition of a direct State tax this year and to radically reduce the expenditure of the State government.

After presenting the petition Senator William M. Bennett made an urgent plea for the enactment of the legislation called for in order that the taxes on New York City for the coming year might be held down to a minimum.

He pointed out that the present taxes under which the city is struggling are the result of a depression in city, State and national governmental offices to disperse the question of proper expenditures.

The aim, he said, seems proper to postpone the action of the Legislature without regard for the manner in which existing revenue is expended.

Senator Bennett declared the increase in State appropriations in the last twenty years was not only unavoidable but inexplicable, coming out of the fact that the total appropriations in 1894 were only \$15,700,000, in 1915 they mounted up to \$86,855,000.

During the same period, he suggested, the total of State income taxation increased from \$7,500,000 to \$27,000,000, or an increase per capita from \$13 to \$29.

"In spite of this great increase in both direct and indirect taxation," Mr. Bennett said, "a direct State tax was imposed last year greater by \$6,000,000 than any direct State tax ever heretofore imposed."

"Do you know of any case of mercenary motives?" asked Mr. Strong again.

"Speaking generally, I would say that perhaps the motive is mercenary."

Mr. Doherty admitted that despite the unfortunate situation outlined in his report his department had kept on sending children to the convent.

The list of forty-seven investigators appointed by Charities Commissioner Kingsbury, which has been questioned from a legal standpoint, was then read. Senator Bennett, who was present for the State board, his inquiries as to their legal status were blocked by Commissioner Strong's ruling that such questions were not relevant to the investigation.

Mr. Bowes asserted that the appointment of the committee was a proper civil service examination measure.

"The only thing I am interested in is whether these investigations were fairly and honestly made and tended to bring out the truth," he said.

CITY ASYLUMS FOR CHILDREN DECRIED

Commissioner Doherty Says Institutions Should Be Removed to Country.

CRITICISM OF INQUIRY

There is a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of removing all children's institutions from the city to the country, said William J. Doherty, Second Deputy Commissioner of Charities, yesterday at the hearing of charges against the State Board of Charities.

"There has been a general awakening on this subject," he said when referring to conditions in the Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary. "My personal views in relation to this institution are that instead of putting up a \$100,000 church in the country I would erect a building there for girls and get them out of the State government."

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Investigator Criticized.

Mr. Doherty himself came in for criticism as an idealist rather than a practical man at the morning session. Mr. Bowes suggested that some parts of the report of conditions in the convent of Our Lady of the Rosary indicated corruption. The report was not by Mr. Doherty, but the inspection had been made by Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Reeder.

Commissioner Strong asked Mr. Doherty if there had been cooperation between the State Board of Charities and the Department of Education of this city, or whether the two agencies had been hostile.

"There was no cooperation," said Mr. Doherty. "He added that there had undoubtedly been hostility.

"There has always been hostility between the Board of Kingsbury and Committee of Education of the State Board of Education," he said.

Mr. Bowes then asked if Mr. Doherty thought it would be wise to close all the institutions that had been criticised by the city department's inspectors.

It was to say that the sooner some of the worst of business, the better, said the witness.

The hearing will continue at 10 o'clock this morning at the Bar Association.

Midwest Refining Profit \$1,763,619.

The Midwest Refining Company reports for the year ended December 31, 1915, gross earnings of \$5,435,581, with net earnings of \$1,825,586. Net profit was \$1,763,619, less \$720,000 in dividends. Profit and loss surplus as of December 31, 1915, was \$1,786,993.

Chandler Motor Initial Dividend.

The directors of the Chandler Motor Company have declared an initial dividend of 1½ per cent quarterly, thus placing the stock on a 6 per cent annual basis. The dividend is payable April 1 to stock of record March 1.

Mitchel Refuses Franchise.

Will Not Allow Atlantic Ave. Troley Line Extensions.

Major Mitchell refused his approval yesterday to an application of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company for franchise to extend an extension of street car lines in Atlantic Avenue. In applying for extension to Rockaway Avenue, Metropolitan Avenue, English Avenue and Fresh Pond road, he said he did it "for no other reason than the urgency of the situation and the length of time the application had been before the city."

He said that he had consulted his action in this case as a precedent.

"This illustrates," he says, "how an entrenched monopoly can dictate terms to the city, and the city is without redress, say to withhold its approval and thereby impose serious inconvenience to the traveling public."

"I am withholding my approval of the grant for Atlantic Avenue, which I consider one of the most valuable franchises left in the borough of Brooklyn for a street surface railway, until the city of Brooklyn has accepted the franchise, which was previously accepted by the company, to wit, with an initial payment of \$5,000, the term to expire July 1, 1937, with privilege of renewal ending with any renewal which may be granted to the system, plus franchise fees."

"Thus far I have received no official communication from the anthracite miners regarding their acceptance to meet representatives of the miners to negotiate a wage contract in New York February 21."

The conference will affect the miners in the States mentioned and also in West Virginia, where there is no organization. The contract in the Western field expires July 31.

The conference here must conclude or adjourn in time to enable the delegates to reach New York by February 21.

If no amicable agreement is possible, a strike may follow, affecting more than \$600,000 daily.

ASK HIGHER DIVIDEND.

Morris and Essex Shareholders Sue the Lackawanna.

NEWARK, Feb. 7.—Final hearing of the suit by Morris and Essex against the Lackawanna railroad to recover the payment of an additional 1 per cent dividend on the stock of the former road began before Vice-Chancellor Howell today. The suit was filed last April. The action was instituted by the American Insurance Company of Newark, as holder of 200 shares of Morris and Essex, or a par value of \$10 a share. Charles C. Savage and Anna B. Savage, of Philadelphia, holders of 18 and 10 shares respectively, also joined in the suit.

The action is based on the lease dated December 10, 1898, by which the two companies, in consideration of the cross-leases of the Morris and Essex properties, shall be entitled to pay interest on all the then existing obligations and liability of the Morris and Essex, and to pay 10 per cent on the capital stock of Morris and Essex, except stock held by the two companies, and to receive 10 per cent on the capital stock of the Lackawanna, less the amount received from the Lackawanna.

Holiday dividends of 7 per cent have been received by the complainant shareholders. The bill alleges that if a proper system of apportioning costs of betterments and expenses had been followed, the higher dividend rate would long ago have been warranted. The Lackawanna contends that the Morris and Essex has never yet received earnings warranting the higher dividend.

Cigar Manufacturers' Galas Less.

The report of the United Cigar Manufacturers' Convention, held at Atlantic City, December 21, 1915, shows gross earnings of \$2,551,531, against \$2,566,632 in the year before. Expenses incurred by the cigar manufacturers, including Boston and Philadelphia, Joshua Crane, Boston, and Malvina D. Whitman, W. W. Hoffman and Cyril Hatchett, of New York, on Saturday, were \$1,065,116, or \$1,041. The report shows a surplus for the year of \$158,522, against \$159,636 in the previous year.

Willard-Moran Bout Not to Be in the Garden--Chajes Extends Cuban

RICKARD NOT LIKELY TO GET THE GARDEN

Balks at Prohibitive Price and Seeks Another Place for Willard-Moran Go.

CHAMPION IS FAVORITE

Joe Willard is a 10 to 7 favorite over Moran in the bout scheduled for March 15, according to Fred Schumann, the Brooklyn betting expert. Both men have been placed in his hands, Mr. Schumann says, that Willard will get the concession newspaper's estimate of \$250 to \$350 that Willard is the winner. Other bets are still open, even though it is known that Moran is a 10 to 1 shot.

"I think Moran is the greatest sport in the world," says Willard. "I haven't made a bet in that time."

And the track of the Philip Morris Clubhouse, located on the grounds of the polo field of the New York Yacht Club, is the scene of the annual chess tournament.

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